

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action mailed April 19, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-21, and 23-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gordon et al. (USP 5,661,774). The Examiner next rejected claims 5, 13, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon et al. in view of Heuscher (USP 5,262,946). In response to the Final Office Action mailed April 19, 2007, Applicant filed a second Notice of Appeal on July 19, 2007, and an Appeal Brief on January 21, 2008.

Applicant hereby requests withdrawal of the application from appeal and requests continued examination of the pending application under MPEP §706.07(h). Applicant herewith has submitted a Supplemental IDS including a reference supplied by a foreign patent office for consideration in the above-captioned application. Furthermore, regarding outstanding claim rejections, Applicant incorporates by reference the arguments submitted in the Appeal Brief dated January 21, 2008.

Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-27.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Amendments and Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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